Based on inputs received from the online survey of May-June, 2003, TRAHhas undertaken further technical study to identify the bottlenecks in order to improve the quality of Internet services. For this purpose, TRAI has asked for Internet related traffic details from the Basic Service Operators and Internet Service Providers.

Invitation from Mauritius for Investment

*258. SHRI NANA DESHMUKH: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Mauritius has invited Indian companies to invest in that country and use it as a base for trade with Africa, America and European Union;

(b) whether Mauritius also expects support from India in the form of technical assistance and investment for it's IT industry;

(c) if so, Government's reaction thereto; and

(d) the steps being taken to meet their demand?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI VINOD KHANNA): (a) and (b) Yes.

(c) and (d) Both countries have agreed, as part of efforts to promote trade and investment, to explore the possibility of concluding a comprehensive Economic Cooperation Agreement, which would eventually lead to a Free Trade Agreement between India and Mauritius. The Government of India is also assisting Mauritius in the IT sector and has extended a US$ 100 million line of credit to help establish a Cyber City in Mauritius.

Labour unrest in tea gardens of Assam

*259. SHRI DRUPAD BORGOHAIN: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the labour unrest in tea gardens of Assam on 20 per cent bonus issue;

(b) if so, Government's reaction thereto; and